

(ix) Payment of costs associated with complying with Federal or State-approved standards under the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970 (29 U.S.C. 655, 667). This purpose is limited to applicants who demonstrate that compliance with the standards will cause them substantial economic injury; and

(x) Payment of training costs required or recommended by the Agency.

(2) Loan funds under a line of credit may be advanced only for the following purposes:

(i) Payment of annual operating expenses, family subsistence, and purchase of feeder animals;

(ii) Payment of current annual operating debts advanced for the current operating cycle; (Under no circumstances can carry-over operating debts from a previous operating cycle be refinanced);

(iii) Purchase of routine capital assets, such as replacement of livestock, that will be repaid within the operating cycle;

(iv) Payment of scheduled, non-delinquent, term debt payments provided the debt is for authorized FO or OL purposes.

(v) Purchase of cooperative stock for credit, production, processing or marketing purposes; and

(vi) Payment of loan closing costs.

(b) *Farm ownership loan purposes.* Guaranteed FO are authorized only to:

(1) Acquire or enlarge a farm or ranch; examples include, but are not limited to, providing down payments, purchasing easements for the loan applicant's portion of land being subdivided, and participating in the beginning farmer downpayment FO program under part 143, subpart A, of this title;

(2) Make capital improvements; examples include, but are not limited to, the construction, purchase, and improvement of a farm dwelling, service buildings and facilities that can be made fixtures to the real estate, (Capital improvements to leased land may be financed subject to the limitations in § 762.122);

(3) Promote soil and water conservation and protection; examples include the correction of hazardous environmental conditions, and the construc-

tion or installation of tiles, terraces and waterways;

(4) Pay closing costs, including but not limited to, purchasing stock in a cooperative and appraisal and survey fees; and

(5) Refinancing indebtedness incurred for authorized FO and OL purposes, provided the lender and loan applicant demonstrate the need to refinance the debt.

(c) *Highly erodible land or wetlands conservation.* Loans may not be made for any purpose which contributes to excessive erosion of highly erodible land or to the conversion of wetlands to produce an agricultural commodity. A decision by the Agency to reject an application for this reason may be appealable. An appeal questioning whether the presence of a wetland, converted wetland, or highly erodible land on a particular property must be filed directly with the USDA agency making the determination in accordance with the agency's appeal procedures.

(d) *Judgment debts.* Loans may not be used to satisfy judgments obtained in the United States District courts. However, Internal Revenue Service judgment liens may be paid with loan funds.

#### § 762.122 Loan limitations.

(a) *OL term limitations.* (1) No guaranteed OL shall be made to any loan applicant after the 15th year that a loan applicant, or any individual signing the promissory note, received a direct or guaranteed OL.

(2) Notwithstanding paragraph (c)(1) of this section, if a borrower had any combination of direct or guaranteed OL closed in 10 or more prior calendar years prior to October 28, 1992, eligibility to receive new guaranteed OL is extended for 5 additional years from October 28, 1992, and the years need not run consecutively. However, in the case of a line of credit, each year in which an advance is made after October 28, 1992, counts toward the 5 additional years. Once determined eligible, a loan or line of credit may be approved for any authorized term.

(b) *Leased land.* When FO funds are used for improvements to leased land the terms of the lease must provide

reasonable assurance that the loan applicant will have use of the improvement over its useful life, or provide compensation for any unexhausted value of the improvement if the lease is terminated.

(c) *Tax-exempt transactions.* The Agency will not guarantee any loan made with the proceeds of any obligation the interest on which is excluded from income under section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986. Funds generated through the issuance of tax-exempt obligations may not be used to purchase the guaranteed portion of any Agency guaranteed loan. An Agency guaranteed loan may not serve as collateral for a tax-exempt bond issue.

(d) *Floodplain restrictions.* The Agency will not guarantee any loan to purchase, build, or expand buildings located in a special 100 year floodplain as defined by FEMA flood hazard area maps unless flood insurance is available and purchased.

[64 FR 7378, Feb. 12, 1999; 64 FR 38298, July 16, 1999, as amended at 66 FR 7567, Jan. 24, 2001]

#### **§ 762.123 Insurance and farm inspection requirements.**

(a) *Insurance.* (1) Lenders must require borrowers to maintain adequate property, public liability, and crop insurance to protect the lender and Government's interests.

(2) By loan closing, loan applicants must either:

(i) Obtain at least the catastrophic risk protection (CAT) level of crop insurance coverage, if available, for each crop of economic significance, as defined by part 402 of this title, or

(ii) Waive eligibility for emergency crop loss assistance in connection with the uninsured crop. EM loan assistance under part 1945, subpart D, of this title is not considered emergency crop loss assistance for purposes of this waiver and execution of the waiver does not render the borrower ineligible for EM loans.

(3) Loan applicants must purchase flood insurance if buildings are or will be located in a special flood hazard area as defined by FEMA flood hazard area maps and if flood insurance is available.

(4) Insurance, including crop insurance, must be obtained as required by

the lender or the Agency based on the strengths and weaknesses of the loan.

(b) *Farm inspections.* Before submitting an application the lender must make an inspection of the farm to assess the suitability of the farm and to determine any development that is needed to make it a suitable farm.

[64 FR 7378, Feb. 12, 1999, as amended at 70 FR 56107, Sept. 26, 2005]

#### **§ 762.124 Interest rates, terms, charges, and fees.**

(a) *Interest rates.* (1) The interest rate on a guaranteed loan or line of credit may be fixed or variable as agreed upon between the borrower and the lender. The lender may charge different rates on the guaranteed and the non-guaranteed portions of the note. The guaranteed portion may be fixed while the unguaranteed portion may be variable, or vice versa. If both portions are variable, different bases may be used.

(2) If a variable rate is used, it must be tied to a rate specifically agreed to between the lender and borrower in the loan instruments. Variable rates may change according to the normal practices of the lender for its average farm customers, but the frequency of change must be specified in the loan or line of credit instrument.

(3) Neither the interest rate on the guaranteed portion nor the unguaranteed portion may exceed the rate the lender charges its average agricultural loan customer. At the request of the Agency, the lender must provide evidence of the rate charged the average agricultural loan customer. This evidence may consist of average yield data, or documented administrative differential rate schedule formulas used by the lender.

(4) Interest must be charged only on the actual amount of funds advanced and for the actual time the funds are outstanding. Interest on protective advances made by the lender to protect the security will be charged at the note rate but limited to paragraph (a)(3) of this section.

(5) The lender and borrower may collectively obtain a temporary reduction in the interest rate through the interest assistance program in accordance with § 762.150.